

CNN - DEATH OF SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN (8-25-2018)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y>)

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From Sunday, August 25th, 2018 CNN Coverage of the Death of United States Senator John S. McCain. McCain died at 6:28 E.T of brain cancer five days shy of his 82nd Birthday at his home in Arizona.

- Coverage runs from 8:26 P.M E.T - 10:00 P.M E.T

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of war for more than five years again he ran for president twice in 2008 he became the republican nominee for president eventually losing to barack obama most recently he has been an outspoken critic of president donald trump our dana bash has a look back at john mccain's distinguished political career his dramatic senate return against doctors orders after being diagnosed with brain cancer i've been a member of the united states senate for 30 years his late night thumbs down that single-handedly crushed his party's push to repeal and replace obamacare john mccain's last big moment in the political spotlight captured so many of the complexities of his character a stubborn man who survived many a brush with death who spent a lifetime looking for moments to shine as a leader and put country first yet forever a hot dog fighter pilot with dramatic flair and white knuckle political instincts john sidney mccain iii was born with a storied legacy of service to live up to his father and grandfather were both four-star admirals his father and his grandfather instilled in him a sense of duty honor and country young mccain's passion was literature he was a voracious reader all his life hemingway has always been my my favorite author in many ways a larger than life figure that i always admired a lot yet mccain followed the path of larger than life figures in his own family enrolling at the naval academy where he stood out for being a troublemaker not a future leader i'm the guy that stood fifth from the bottom of his class at the naval academy he became a fighter pilot his first combat mission during the vietnam war was aboard the uss forest hall on deck his plane was accidentally struck by a missile causing a huge inferno 134 fellow sailors died a few months

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134 fellow sailors died a few months later mccain was on a routine bombing mission his plane was shot down i was gyrating very violently almost straight down so i had to eject very quickly i was knocked unconscious he found himself surrounded by angry villagers swinging bayonets the north vietnamese forced him to give this interview in exchange for life-saving treatment i'm treated well here he was taken as a prisoner of war and tortured he was beaten on a regular basis being hung by his arms from a ceiling sockets pulled out when his father jack mccain was named commander of u.s pacific forces the vietnamese offered john mccain freedom he refused it would have broken pow protocol released in order of capture there was a correlation between my refusal to accept early release and my treatment the treatment got very much worse ultimately they broke mccain getting him to sign a statement admitting to claims against him which he regretted the rest of his life after he signed it i think he wanted just to die because he felt so disloyal he felt he felt shame that he had let the country down finally after nearly five and a half years in prison mccain was released you still see the impact of that today the way he was tied you know the way he can't raise his arms his hands can't comb his hair the things that we take for granted his marriage to first wife carol who waited anxiously for mccain while imprisoned fell apart captain mccain became a naval liaison to the u.s senate

where he caught the political bug in 1982 he ran for the house from arizona home with new wife cindy and one john mccain four years later it was on to the u.s senate early on controversy the keating five mccain and four other senators met regulators

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four other senators met regulators investigating the failed savings and loan bank of charles keating a mccain contributor i am of course relieved that i have been exonerated an investigation cleared mccain of wrongdoing but rebuked him for poor judgment the episode sent mccain on a crusade to clean up washington pushing campaign finance reform fighting big tobacco railing against earmarks that's our obligation and our duty to the american people everything with passion humor he's very direct he's also very funny he has a way of uh sort of picking teasing people he likes and thanks for the question you little jerk he was a little jerk and a famous temper be a complete jerk to his closest friends and hug you dearly next in the fall of 1999 mccain announced his candidacy for president as an underdog he got attention by being constantly available to reporters aboard his bus the straight talk express he trounced front-runner george w bush in the new hampshire primary but then lost south carolina where it got ugly and personal mccain soon dropped out and returned to the senate even more determined to work across the aisle with democrats like ted kennedy on issues like a patient's bill of rights and immigration reform i announced my candidacy for president of the united states in 2008 his second presidential bid this time he was the heir apparent but mccain's support for a surge of troops in iraq and bipartisan work on immigration reform hurt him with gop voters his poll numbers plunged he held town halls in new hampshire talked border security instead of immigration reform and climbed back the fact that you're getting a second chance what does that say it means that we are happy and where how far we've come after securing the gop nomination he had to pick a running mate close friend democrat-turned-independent joe

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friend democrat-turned-independent joe lieberman was his first choice so i hear he never told you that no he did aids convinced mccain that lieberman's support for abortion rights made it impossible mccain still went bold first term alaska governor sarah palin at first palin helped mccain draw conservative support he was lacking but after some bizarre interviews many campaign aides considered her a liability putin rears his head and comes into the air space of the united states mccain would never say he regretted choosing palin he doesn't talk about it no ever and he never will the economic collapse in september 2008 ultimately sealed mccain's defeat still he worked to stay out of gutter politics taking the mic from a voter who claimed barack obama was arab no man and giving a concession speech that marked the historic moment for the country this is an historic election and i recognize the special significance it has for african americans and for the special pride that must be theirs tonight mccain settled into life as a senior statesman fulfilled a dream of becoming senate armed services chairman and traveled around the world every chance he got an informal diplomat and an informed senator president trump was elected mccain took it upon himself to reassure world leaders visiting 26 countries and four continents in the first six months of 2017 alone even at age 80 mccain liked to travel with and mentor younger senators in both parties forging close relationships he is loyal to his friends he loves his country and if he has to stand up to his party for his country so be it he would die for this country i love him to death his july 2017 brain cancer diagnosis and treatment for it forced mccain to

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and treatment for it forced mccain to slow down but he hated pity this is how he always wanted to be remembered paraphrasing his political hero teddy roosevelt i've had the most wonderful life and career that anybody you will ever meet thank you dana bash cnn washington a man who kept that positive attitude till the end who kept his sense of humor who kept his appreciation for life for service let me read you the statement we got from senator mccain's office this evening it reads senator john sidney mccain iii died at 4 28 p.m on august 25 2018 with the senator when he passed were his wife cindy and their family at his death he has served the united states of america faithfully for 60 years i want to bring in cnn's dana bash and dan i

know you've you've been close with john mccain with his family been keeping in touch with those who are close to him in his final days and final hours what do we know about what has been happening there with that friend and family and and all of these people who have been rallying around him in these last few moments well what happens uh unfortunately so many of us know uh from friends and family who have suffered this horrible disease of cancer that when the end comes and in the case of senator mccain as we heard officially from his office yesterday he decided to stop treatment everybody gathers for what obviously is something that they knew was inevitable but it's obviously not the same as knowing as it happening and you know senator mccain is a father is a grandfather he's got a loving wife seven kids and friendships that are so close somebody who knows him very well said

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somebody who knows him very well said that they're like love affairs the friendships that he has forged over his entire lifetime um speaking of friends i just wanted to read you a a tweet that we just saw from lindsey graham who you just saw on that piece there saying america and freedom have lost one of her greatest champions and i've lost one of my dearest friends and mentor that's coming from lindsey graham and i also just want to as we soak in this news and you talked about his final moments and his family being around him one of the things one of the gifts that senator mccain and his long-time collaborator and dear friend mark salter has given to to us is insight into how he thought how he felt about the world but also about his own mortality particularly towards the end and in his most recent book restless wave he wrote i'd like to go back to our valley and see the creek after the rain and hear the cottonwood cottonwoods whisper in the wind there he's talking about his beloved home really the only home he knew because he was a military kid and traveled around all his life arizona in this particular house he where he passed away he loved so much and he wrote i want to smell the rose scented breeze and feel the sun on my shoulders i want to watch the hawks hunt from the sycamore and then take my leave bound for a place near my old friend chuck laron in the cemetery on the back where it began so the seven referring to the river near annapolis the naval academy where he went where his father and grandfather admirals both uh also attended and where we believe that he is going to be buried anna dana bash i'm going to let you go so you can continue to gather some more information i do want to again read that tweet from lindsey graham's opinion american freedom have lost one of her greatest champions and i have lost one of my dearest friends and mentor

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of my dearest friends and mentor we're also hearing from other members across the aisle senator kirsten gillibrand tweeting we will never forget the unparalleled courage heart and service of john mccain my thoughts are with his family as they mourn this great loss but also as they celebrate his incredible life it was a privilege to serve beside john in the senate and he will be so greatly missed i want to bring in cnn's wolf blitzer now because it really was an incredible life he was somebody who was known as a fighter in every aspect of his life from his service in the military to his service as a u.s senator first elected in 1986 serving six terms somebody who worked across the aisle and always always stayed true to his conviction no matter if it was along the same lines as the majority of his party you know he was a really uh unusual politician in that he was so honest with his own national security especially his national security beliefs and even though he was a conservative republican even though he you know was very loyal to his party and loyal to the conservative movement he was always willing to work with democrats including very liberal democrats if there was an area they could work together for the national interest especially in the area of national security security on i've covered him for a long long time more than 30 years and interviewed him dozens and dozens of times spent a lot of quality time with him over the years i mean when you compare this politician to so many other politicians he is he was really unique in that he was willing to speak out and what he felt was the truth not play games he was always always there and he will certainly be missed because he was such such an unusual man a great american a great patriot someone who was always always working

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someone who was always always working for the american people and you can agree with him you could disagree with him but you always have to respect him and especially what he went through during during his life you know he didn't make a big deal out of it but it was really really amazing to think of of the years five and a half years he was a pow in vietnam and then he was one of the leaders in working to restore relations with a new vietnam and it it really is so sad when you think about the fact that he has now gone and and i think i speak for all everyone here at cnn certainly everyone uh in the united states and around the world who knew him admired him loved him uh we say you know we express our deepest deepest condolences to his very very loving family absolutely wolf do you have any memories that are top of mind of john mccain in the time that that you covered him and knew him as a senator you know years and years ago there was a very prominent democrat here in washington dave edson as close uh to bill clinton when he was president a leader in the democratic party the dnc but during the vietnam war david was an anti-war protester very outspoken very active and as we know john mccain was in the navy and he was serving flying missions uh in vietnam and then eventually i was a pow for more than five years uh i remember that they became close in the in later years even though david edson was a democrat even though john mccain was a republican even though david edson truly opposed the war in vietnam and john mccain fought in the vietnam war and uh it was one of the most riveting moments i remember uh david as a young man he passed away and i went to his funeral uh here in the d.c area and john mccain gave the eulogy to davidson it was such a such a kind gesture on his part even though they were so different during the

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they were so different during the vietnam war they did become friends in later years and it was just a beautiful eulogy that he delivered at his funeral and it's just sort of indicative it underscores the man that john mccain was that that he could you know get beyond move beyond and work together especially when he thought that it was in the american national interest to do so and uh and he was just so bold so courageous and it's just very sad for all of us who knew him admired him covered him interviewed him to to know that he is now gone at 81 years old almost 82. but it's just a stamp set moment and i'm sure his family uh you know they've been preparing for this for more than a year when he was diagnosed with brain cancer but you know when it happens it happens those of us who've gone through this with family members notes you know you can get ready you can prepare but once it once it's really there uh it's so so sad oh no doubt about it he was diagnosed in july of 2017. he has spoken about how he has survived longer than family thought he might because of what doctors had told them given his very aggressive brain brain cancer that he was suffering from we have some new reporting we'll stand by about john mccain's plans for his funeral service something that apparently had begun over the last year he had been planning for his services often discussing the plans with close friends who lived and who visited his arizona ranch two people close to mccain say that he wanted three locations for services including arizona the national cathedral in washington and annapolis this is reporting from our jeff zeleny also as we have previously previously reported he he did not want president trump to be at his funeral and that apparently is a wish that he held true to the very end he's also asked

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to the very end he's also asked that some of the eulogies at his funeral come from former presidents from barack obama as well as george w bush so now again the plans continue in the works for what happens next for john mccain for his family a close group of friends were planning to be with him next wednesday which would have been his 82nd birthday but they were told on wednesday that he wouldn't make it that long so this did happen very quickly we just got a statement from megan mccain john mccain's daughter let me read it to you she writes my father united states senator john sidney mccain iii departed this life today i was with my father at his end as he was with me at my beginning in the 33 years we shared together he raised me taught me corrected me comforted me encouraged me and supported me in all things he loved me and i loved him he taught me how to live his love and his care ever present always unfailing took me from a girl to a woman and he showed me what it is to be a man all that i am is thanks to him now that he is gone the task of my lifetime is to live up to his example his expectations and his love my father's passing comes with sorrow and grief for me for my mother for my brothers and for my sisters he was a great fire who burned

bright and we lived in his light and warmth for so very long we know that his flame lives on in each of us the days and years to come will not be the same without my dad but they will be good days filled with life and love because of the example he lived for us your prayers for his soul and for our family are sincerely appreciated my father is gone and i miss him as only and i miss him as only an adoring daughter can but in this loss and in this sorrow i take comfort in this john mccain hero of the republic and to his little girl wakes today to something more glorious

[00:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=1200s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=1200s)

wakes today to something more glorious than anything on this earth today the warrior enters his true and external life an eternal life greeted by those who have gone before him rising to meet the author of all things and then she writes this quote the dream has ended this is the morning again that statement from megan mccain reaction to his death from his daughter she is one of seven children that mccain leaves behind from two different marriages and just now we also have a statement from the president of the united states donald trump who just tweeted this my deepest sympathies and respect go out to the family of senator john mccain our hearts and prayers are with you and wolff getting that statement from the president that's notable because since it was announced that john mccain had terminated his medical treatment the president had not commented on him at all yeah no he had not commented on them all and there was a long history unfortunately of animosity uh the president president trump including over this past year you know was often repeatedly at various campaign rallies and those were you know uh going after john mccain because john mccain in the end voted against the complete repeal of obamacare and the president would often talk about that but going back to 2015 when john mccain uh you know he certainly was a national hero and everybody remembered his service in the u.s military in the u.s navy and five and a half years he was a pow but all of us remember that uh and it's hard to even talk about this at the sad moment that in 2015 when he was you know a candidate he was out in iowa and he and he said that john mccain was not a hero because he was a pow pows are not really heroes it was just a sad awful moment and he never regretted it the president never apologized never reached out uh it was just a very very you know very disturbing moment in american history and

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and glad he's issued a statement finally but you know as the family has made it clear the mccain family has made it clear they really don't want president trump to come to the funeral world they don't want him involved there is there is this tension there and it certainly is understandable and of course john mccain he ran to be president twice uh did not succeed but in 2008 the second time that he ran the first time was in the the 2000 race in the 2008 race he did receive his party's nomination and now we're hearing from the man that he ran against in that race uh now former president barack obama who just issued a statement along with michelle obama and they write this about the passing of senator john mccain they write john mccain and i were members of different generations came from completely different backgrounds and competed at the highest level of politics but we shared for all our differences a fidelity to something higher the ideals for which generations of americans and immigrants alike have fought marched and sacrificed we saw our political battles even as a privilege something noble an opportunity to serve as stewards of those high ideals at home and to advance them around the world we saw this country as a place where anything is possible and citizenship as our patriotic obligation to ensure it forever remains that way few of us have been tested the way john once was or required to show the kind of courage that he did but all of us can aspire to the courage to put the greater good above our own at john's best he showed us what that means and for that we are all in his debt michelle and i send our most heartfelt condolences to cindy and their family again a statement from former president barack obama he talks about his courage and wolf you've also talked about his time serving as a pow in the vietnam war he was captured in october of 1967 was held prisoner until march of 1973.

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was held prisoner until march of 1973. we know his captors tortured him in fact tortured him so so badly that he couldn't raise his arms past a certain level even after he was he was saved and recovered from those injuries he was permanently damaged he was held in solitary confinement and what i really find amazing that i think will speak so much to his character is that he had declined an offer of early release because he wanted other people who had been prisoner longer to be let go first yeah it was underscored the nature of this wonderful wonderful man that running with the p.o.w since his father was a retired u.s admiral well known and the north vietnamese knew about that they were ready to make a gesture and release him even though there were other americans who were held longer and mccain himself said that's not happening yeah i'll wait my turn i'm not going to get special special service because my father is a retired u.s navy admiral uh and uh and he stayed put you know he stayed in vietnam he didn't have to he could have left but it just shows what kind of man he he was a true american hero someone that was so widely respected you know the other day yesterday on i was interviewing senator jack reed uh of uh you know rhode island who's the ranking democrat on the armed services committee senator mccain was the chairman of the senate armed services committee senator reid a democrat and when he was speaking about senator mccain the man he traveled with went to vietnam with went all over the world work and worked together as the chairman and the ranking member of the armed services committee you could see how emotionally you know charged how sad senator reid was and i've spoken over these past in a couple days now with a whole bunch of you know leaders in the u.s senate democrats and republicans everyone is going to be so distraught so

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everyone is going to be so distraught so concerned look it's not a huge surprise he had the terminal form of brain cancer and he was he lived for what 13 months with that uh that brain that brain tumor uh and as our dr sanjay gupta had said that normally for that particular type of brain cancer maybe you could live 14 months so he did live 13 months with atlanta treatment but in the end they're you know this is what's going to happen this is not a form of cancer that is usually treatable and so everyone knew this was just a matter of time and everyone was ready for it but uh but still the the outpouring of grief the outpouring of sadness uh coupled with with enormous amount of tribute and praise for this man even if you disagreed with him on some sensitive issues and there were plenty of people who disagreed with him for example uh in support of the iraq war uh but still everybody never questioned his integrity and and his his honesty absolutely and as you mentioned we're starting to see the sentiments really pouring out over social media right now in fact his wife just tweeted as well writing my heart is broken i am so lucky to have lived the adventure of loving this incredible man for 38 years he passed the way he lived on his own terms surrounded by the people he loved in the place he loved best we're also hearing from his fellow senator from the state of arizona words cannot express the sorrow i feel at john mccain's passing writes jeff flake the world has lost a hero and a statesman cindy and the mccain family have lost a loving husband and father i have lost a wonderful friend he was a friend to so many so many commenting on his adventurous spirit his joy that he brought to those around him but also that he really epitomized in his own life in fact there was a quote i wanted to read uh that that he wrote himself he wrote this in just the last year he wrote

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this in just the last year he wrote maybe i'll be gone before you read this i'm getting prepared i have some things i'd like to take care of first some work that needs finishing some people i need to see i made a small place for myself in the story of america and the history of my times the bell tolls for me i knew it would i hope those who mourn my passing and those who don't will celebrate as i celebrate a happy life lived in imperfect service to a country made of ideals whose continued success is the hope of the world and i wish all of your great adventures good company and lives as lucky as mine lives as lucky as mine given everything he experienced in life things that you wouldn't worse wish on your worst enemy he still had such an appreciation for all of his life including those trying years as a prisoner of war and what strikes me wolf in that quote and in his final interviews is how much he speaks to celebrating a wonderful life and the joy that he lived with so appreciative of every moment given the fact that he had been so close to death at a relatively early age in his life when he was shot down over vietnam he survived he survived the five and a half years as a pow so he

really appreciated life he wanted to live life to its fullest uh and you know some so he could have gone into a different direction simply gone out there and made some money uh but his patriotism his service going back to the uh his graduation from the u.s naval academy it was all it was always built in to his blood that he couldn't believe that he wanted to serve he wanted to do whatever he could for the country and and that certainly came through in in 2008 when he was running for president of the united states uh and and

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of the united states uh and and everybody will always remember that exchange he had with that woman uh at a town hall when she was you know going after the then democratic candidate barack obama and said well you know he's an arab and uh immediately senator mccain he was a republican for publicly you know this republican candidate said no no no no no man he's not an arab he's a decent family man uh and he and he you know really rejected that that whole notion it was just indicative of who john mccain was uh that uh you know he he was a politician he had different views and then barack obama they disagreed on many issues but he wasn't going to let it get personal he was never going to say anything mean or nasty and certainly not true about his political rivals he was just a decent decent wonderful guy and you know over the years when i interviewed him i never knew what uh what to expect i knew he would come prepared i knew he would be ready uh and even when we would get into a tough line of questioning and clearly he was on the defensive you could see there was still a little bit of a smile on his face even then uh if he enjoyed that give and take he enjoyed going back and forth we'd have a tough interview and then we talked about it afterwards and it was just something that you know was in his nature you know he was considered the maverick uh but he was always so appreciative of the american news media he was always even when he disagreed and even when he was being criticized he was always available he was always willing to talk to reporters always willing to work with the reporters he was willing to go on television do interviews do a newspaper interview he was very very uh aware of the amazing role really unique and critical role that a free press has in any democracy especially our democracy and and those of us who are your journalists and have been for a long time we always appreciated how much he appreciated what we were doing what our job was and our role in democracy and that's

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and our role in democracy and that's something you know that always stuck out in my mind well stay with me i want to bring in former arizona governor jan brewer she was governor from 2009 to 2015. governor brewer thank you for joining us right now what are your thoughts about john mccain tonight well of course my heart is broken i uh it just doesn't seem real to me i have john and i have known each other for a long time we did so many things together uh collectively and he was such an honorable man and had so much courage and lived a full life it's just so hard uh to be able to even talk about it in your heart my heart i know the country the world's heart is breaking but um he was endeared by so many of us in arizona and the united states and around the world that it's almost you can't put it into word um i you know we campaigned together we worked together we we took care of the military together we talked about our families together and he was always the kind of guy that when you were having a crisis or if you lost i i had a couple of bad deaths in my family and he always called me and gave me sympathy and understanding and and called back he was just a wonderful man truly a wonderful wonderful man and he was a man he was a hero but he was a man and loved his family and um i wish everybody could have known him the way so many uh people that have been able to get to know him no kidding a big a a huge loss today a huge loss i hope that god has a menace and keeps them safe absolutely i can hear the emotion in your voice governor brewer stay with me i i want to

[00:34:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2041s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2041s)

brewer stay with me i i want to welcome our viewers who are just joining us at the top of the hour here [Music] if you are just joining us we're following the breaking news here on cnn u.s senator john mccain has died at the age of 81. his passing comes after a battle with brain cancer the republican from arizona was just a giant in american politics respected on both sides of the aisle elected to the senate six times the first time

in 1987. mccain he also served in the u.s navy for more than 20 years he was a captain he was shot down over north vietnam and held there as a prisoner of war for more than five years he ran for president twice and in 2008 he became the republican nominee for president eventually losing to barack obama most recently he has become an outspoken critic of president donald trump and joining us live now in washington i want to go back to our dana bash our chief political correspondent and dana i know you were in close contact with those who are very close to john mccain this evening as he passed away what have you learned about his final hours my understanding is that they were peaceful and he lived his final hours final days final weeks in his favorite place in the world and that is a place they call the cabin a little bit more than that but a beautiful spot that the senator and his wife and his family built and called home for many many years it is even though it is arizona which you think of as a desert it was it is a place that has grass and trees sycamore trees and a creek and uh what he had been doing before he he stopped treatment uh is looking out at the

[00:36:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2160s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2160s)

looking out at the creek looking out at the hawks uh but it is the place where he passed away with his family with his close friends long-time uh confidants surrounding him and this is obviously an incredibly sad day but we have to remember that senator mccain said over and over and over again that he understood that he lived the fullest of lives he had many many lives not starting of course with the fact that he survived five and a half years in of torture and two years of that were in isolation a solitary confinement during the vietnam war came back left the navy went on to political service first in the house then in the senate ran for president twice that's the time i got to know him covering his campaigns and also of course um before he had this cancer he had skin cancer and so he had so many fights but he loved the fight uh fight i used the word fight because he used that word but it was just passion it was indefatigable passion that he had sometimes that passion showed up with the flare of anger which he got over quickly but it was always work work work work work never stop as he said never look back keep going and again he always said that he has lived the most full life the happiest of lives with close friends loves uh both romantic and and otherwise in terms of friendship and uh and of course for his family for his seven kids and his grandchildren and i should also mention he has a mother who is still with us who is over a hundred years old which is one of the reasons why people who have known and loved john mccain for so long thought he would be around well into his 80s as opposed to 81 and i just want to mention one thing that is think a bit eerie and that is today nine years ago august 25 2009

[00:38:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2283s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2283s)

today nine years ago august 25 2009 is the day that his close friend ted kennedy passed away from the exact same disease from the exact same brain cancer very close friends across the aisle even though they disagreed on a lot of things they work together on everything from immigration to health care and the fact that they died on the same day is is is ironic but maybe poignant and in some ways comforting maybe for for their families given their relationship gives me goosebumps to think about that dana please stand by with us because you mentioned how he had friends on all sides of the aisle and all walks of life and one of those friends was former vice president joe Biden who also had a very personal fight with cancer his son of course died of the same kind of brain cancer that john mccain has now passed from and this is a statement now from vice president joe Biden and senator on senator john mccain he writes john mccain's life is proof that some truths are timeless character courage integrity honor a life lived embodying those truths casts a long long shadow john mccain will cast a long shadow his impact on america hasn't ended not even close it will go on for many years to come as the p.o.w john endured the worst of what human beings can do to one another in politics he felt short of his greatest ambition at the end of his life he faced a cruel and relentless disease and yet through it all he never lost sight of what he believed most country first and the spirit that drove him was never extinguished we are here to commit ourselves to something bigger than ourselves john has and was many things a proud graduate of the naval academy a senate colleague a political opponent but to me more than anything john was a friend america will miss john

[00:40:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2402s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2402s)

john was a friend america will miss john mccain the world will miss john mccain and i will miss him dearly on behalf of myself jill and the entire biden family our sincerest condolences go out to cindy doug andy sydney megan jack jimmy bridget and the entire mccain family i want to go live now to our stephanie elam she is outside the ranch where senator mccain passed away this evening these are live pictures as you see the hearse there a very sad moment we learned that john mccain passed away at 4 28 this afternoon i believe that is local time that according to the press release put out from the senator's office our stephanie elam is there live in sedona arizona stephanie phillison on what's been happening there and what you're hearing on the ground uh well right now anna you're seeing the most activity there was just a police escort here to the ranch that dan is so beautifully described just a few moments ago here what they call the cabin out here in the rural part of arizona we're near sedona and i have to tell you it has been such a strikingly beautiful day up here with the cloud cover and then the rain came in but up against those stark red rocks that you can see here in sedona that i could see why senator mccain called this home call this place that he wanted to be and just now we saw the hearse making their way into the property here along with a bunch of other suvs that are making their way from what we understand it's about a mile long ride to make the way up to the cabin up this road uh the troopers we're not here we've been here all day we've been here since the middle of the night um the troopers were not here earlier but they're now out here now marking this passing that we have heard of uh of cinema mccain passing away under his own uh sort of plan under his own way and it seems like most of this has already been planned out with the

[00:42:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2520s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2520s)

already been planned out with the reaction that we are seeing here but this is the most activity we've seen here all day right now anna is this procession of suvs making it up there with the escort of the motorcycle police officers who have just made their way in here and making it up this dirt road uh but from what we understand it's a beautiful oasis up there it's a place where he could reflect on his life and you know in this time what we've been struck by here is just how much senator mccain has played a part in planning his end of days and how he wanted to be remembered and right now obviously our everyone's hearts here you've seen people coming by bringing flowers there's a sign out there you may not be able to read it because it's kind of faint but there is a sign out there we saw a man come by with a sign up that said he was a huge trump supporter the flag was massive on this truck there was no there was no surprise about that but at the same time despite the fact that we've seen lots of disagreement and animosity between the president and the senator this man came out here and brought a sign up here and it says senator mccain thank you for your service so the people of arizona very thankful to the senator for all he has done keep in mind he was elected six times to represent the state he was loved here and uh as people have been coming by and seeing this and dropping off flowers they are feeling for the mccain family i am feeling for the mccain family someone who just lost my father to cancer i'm a little emotional so forgive me if you hear it in my voice i'm feeling for the mccains right now as well it is a difficult difficult time but it sounds like the senator did so much of it as he did his life even if it wasn't popular he spoke out in the way he felt was correct uh even if that may have played into costing him the uh president presidency this is how he wanted his life to be remembered and it's it's striking and you can feel that here on the ground in sedona anna man of character a man of integrity a man who was really really loved by so many

[00:44:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2640s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2640s)

was really really loved by so many people thank you stephanie elam please stay with us i want to bring back the former governor of arizona jan brewer thank you for staying with me on the phone governor brewer what did john mccain mean to the state of arizona i think he meant everything he was the what arizona represented a maverick you know the wild west he stood for the arizonan principles he embodied it he he truly was such a marvelous man and it's just hard to comprehend that he's not going to be here with us it's a man that he is so hard to explain and everybody has put so many beautiful words together out there to describe him but he is probably one of the most difficult persons uh to describe because once you know him you love him uh and he loves you back he he just was so uh engaging and and and that earnesty about what it was that he wanted to do for the for our country and particularly for the state of arizona and he was willing

to fight for it he was willing to go to bat for it he was willing to stand as a man of one if he had to and and and to know uh from whence he came to arizona from vietnam and and to build his family here with cindy and his children and gave his all he gave his all for our country and he never flinched he never flinched in even when he was under attack he had that hearty belly laugh that came from inside no doubt he didn't lose his sense of humor through it all no and i have to ask you because you know as well as anybody as a politician it's it's a tough go and this is somebody who served

[00:46:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2760s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2760s)

served six terms in the u.s senate to what do you attribute that longevity it's interesting uh you know tenacity uh the will to want to make a difference the will to serve your country john um we started john and i started our careers together he ran for the united states congress and i ran for the arizona house of representatives here in arizona and he ran for the senate and i ran for the arizona senate so our lives have paralleled um all these years and um of course worked very closely when i was with the governor with him i think that's because people knew that he would he would fight for what he believed in and i always felt like you know he really loved his country i think other people understood he really loved his country and he would never do anything to harm it whether you agree with him or not he was doing what he thought was right and i think that that that in itself just shone through i mean people people know people know that john mccain loved his country and he would fight he would fight he gave his life for six years as a pow you know all these years as a public servant getting beaten up battered about ripped apart but he stood his ground and i tell you i've said it more than once if i was in a war boy i bought john mccain in my boss called i thought he made me feel he made me feel safe and secure and he was accessible you know you could talk to john mccain do you think he felt optimistic though about his party till the end you know there are certain uh arenas that went that were not friendly to john mccain within the republican uh party but i think overwhelmingly uh everybody

[00:48:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2881s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=2881s)

but i think overwhelmingly uh everybody appreciated him and respected him it got tough out there politics is a nasty world and it got mean and it got ugly but let me tell you john mccain never ever flinched he never flinched never blinked never blamed one of the proudest days of my life was in minneapolis when he was running for president and i was able to nominate him for president obvious be the republican nominee uh for for president and to stand on that floor to know that i know that career that i knew that great man and to nominate him um for that prestigious uh nomination uh you know my heart just dwelled it was like you know how how's this happen to me that i got that honor and i will never forget that i will never forget that uh it just it's something that i can't put into words um i wish i could i wish i could explain how i truly loved him respected him and um and stood up and and and fought tigers for him on some occasions you know and uh did it willingly and um you know we i will miss him i will miss himself so much former governor jan brewer thank you so much for sharing your thoughts your love your passion your appreciation for senator john mccain is felt uh through through your words and your emotion tonight again thank you you talked about nominating him for president that was in his 2008 presidential run where he became the republican nominee for president went head to head with barack obama that was the year he chose sarah palin to be his running mate she too is reacting tonight tweeting this just a few moments ago today we lost an american original senator john mccain was a maverick and a fighter never afraid to stand for his beliefs john never took the easy path in life and though

[00:50:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3000s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3000s)

and though and through sacrifice and suffering he inspired others to serve something greater than self she also writes john mccain was my friend i will remember the good times my family and i send prayers for cindy and the mccain family and that was from sarah palin and family and you see the picture that she tweeted out the two of them laughing it looks like a great belly laugh there from senator john mccain and sarah palin as well that year in 2008 as they they ran um as running mates for the presidency and vice presidency i want to go back to our wolf blitzer who's still with us and and well if i ask this question to jan brewer because uh so

many people now have commented on how he didn't take the easy route and he stayed true to himself to what he believed was right for the people he represented in arizona and really tried to do what is right for the country in the best interests of america and yet this last year or so of service as he continued to battle this disease of brain cancer that was so aggressive and struggled with his health with his health he he maintained that conviction and wanted to continue to to serve in his capacity as a u.s senator and he he really did bang heads with some of those who were in his party on capitol hill and of course at the white house do you believe that he was optimistic about his party at this point i i think he had obviously very strong disagreements with president trump uh on several issues and and that became clear and uh there was no love lost between these two men but uh i think he was basically an optimist about the united states uh the greatest country in the world he basically have total confidence that whatever differences there are whatever disagreements there are whatever crises there may be this country will not only survive but eventually will thrive uh he was always so optimistic even that

[00:52:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3122s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3122s)

uh he was always so optimistic even that even when the country was going through some very very rough moments uh you know he had from his own personal experience and appreciation that people will get through this he had total confidence in the constitution total confidence in our democratic system and uh he was very gracious even in defeat uh even in his defeat 2008 when he lost uh the presidency he lost the presidential election to barack obama he was uh clearly you know clearly uh very gracious in his defeat and he didn't walk away as others might have done he decided yes i'm not going to be the president of the united states but i still will be united states senator i still will be on the armed services committee i still will have a role in trying to get comprehensive immigration reform passed they'll still have a role on critically important economic related issues i want i want to serve our country and that's what he continued to do even in the aftermath of that political setback but but yeah there were plenty of differences but i think bottom line he was upbeat he was optimistic let me read again the president's tweet tonight this is from president donald trump he writes my deepest sympathies and respect go out to the family of senator john mccain our hearts and prayers are with you and just moments ago we saw the flag come down half staff at the white house there you go you see it there flying now overhead half staff remembering john mccain tonight who passed away today at the age of 81. this is a man who had many words that he shared over the course of his life dan abash he wrote three books the most recent um was published just this past summer i know you have some some new information for us that's right he actually wrote i think maybe about a half a dozen books believe it or not uh with uh with his uh co-author and and close friend mark salter but yeah before i i want to read a couple of quotes which i think are quite

[00:54:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3240s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3240s)

think are quite telling and poignant right now but before that i just wanted to share something that the democratic leader senator chuck schumer who again this is a familiar theme that you're going to be hearing a democrat who has the utmost respect for senator mccain who worked with senator mccain on a number of issues is proposed that the russell office building which is a senate office building where john mccain had his office for for decades and oddly so did his friend ted kennedy they were in the same wing uh ted kennedy was on the third floor john mccain on the second floor and what senator schumer wants to do is to rename the russell building after senator john sidney mccain rename that building which is a really really big deal uh first of all the fact that there that there is a democrat uh you know announcing that second of all that it means that they would take the name russell presumably away and it's a bit controversial because senator russell fought hard against the civil rights uh bill and and he was a long time senator very well regarded at the time but since has been questions about that building so the fact that the top democrat in the senate and another good friend of john mccain wants to rename that building after him says a lot about senator mccain's stature in the u.s senate across the aisle as we've heard tonight he certainly you know made his enemies usually temporarily in the u.s senate when he was fighting hard for a piece of legislation but everybody understood

that it came from a place of love of country uh love of issues and love of the american people whether they were with him on that particular issue or not the fact that we've seen and heard statements from people like senator mitch mcconnell who is the current senate majority leader whom i've watched senator mccain

[00:56:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3360s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3360s)

watched senator mccain tussle with for months and months on end over campaign finance reform the fact that he has been so uh loving frankly in his statements and the fact that he went to visit senator mccain again says a lot about the bipartisan support for him you mentioned the fact that there are you know a lot of words that we are have gifted to us from senator mccain himself one of the things we've heard about the fact that he is a hero he comes from a long line a couple hundred years of of a military family but he also had a passion for literature he loved books every one of his very lengthy trips that he took across the world visiting far-flung estate places in order to go visit dissidents or visit leaders and talk about america's place in the world he would read a book and his favorite author by far was ernest hemingway and his favorite book by hemingway was for whom the bell tolls so he sort of litters his his books with quotes and allusions to that book and particularly the lead character robert jordan uh who was a larger than life victor figure who john mccain wanted to be like he always said his whole life and i just want to read this for you the world is a fine place and worth fighting for and i hate very much to leave it spoke my hero robert jordan in for whom the bell tolls and i do too i hate to leave it but i don't have a complaint not one it's been quite a ride i've known great passions seen amazing wonders fought a war and helped make a peace i've lived very well and i've been deprived of all comforts i've been as lonely as a person can be and have enjoyed the company of heroes i've suffered the deepest despair and experienced the highest exaltation i made a small place for myself in the story of america and the history of my times i think this particular graph uh in in his most recent book the

[00:58:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3480s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3480s)

uh in in his most recent book the restless wave really does sum up so much of what governor jan brewer really did explain is a very very difficult complex man very hard to sum up even in a paragraph never mind an entire book or you know 24 hours a day as we have here on cnn what's striking to me is i think the feeling people have expressed about their appreciation because of who he was how he lived his life and his his really commitment to serve that was at such a deep deep deep level who can't admire and appreciate that again regardless of political party it's an amazing characteristic to have that conviction and the way that conviction was poured into everything he did and as you say words can't do him justice but at the top of the hour we're looking forward to your documentary where you really are able to to lay out and and showcase john mccain the moments that made this man give us a little bit of an idea of what we'll see well anna there are so many uh stages of of his very long uh very rich life uh you know starting of course with the fact that he was the son and grandson of four-star admirals when he was in vietnam his father he didn't even know that he that his father got promoted because he was in prison but his father was in charge of what is effectively the asia command and so that is how senior his father was how well respected he was not just by his son but by the military community his grandfather was a a very important man in world war ii and in the pacific command as well so and it goes it goes even back he he can trace his

[01:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3600s)

trace his uh his lineage at least according to his father to somebody who worked alongside george washington and apparently on one line they can go all the way back to charlemagne that is how it grange and entrenched the idea of service uh and and military honor his his family is and so he when i mentioned the literature i mean he always joked that he you know kind of would look up to and be jealous of friends in high school who went on to regular colleges liberal arts schools and got to study that full-time where he knew always that his future was in the naval academy he fought it he was rambunctious he graduated fifth from the bottom of his class he talked about that all the time but you know being a prisoner of war and even before that being on on board the uss forest hall during the vietnam war where there was an explosion and and over 150 men died and he saw many of his comrades died that changed him so those are parts of it then of

course his his political career and the fact that he really has been a mentor to so many senators democrats and republicans about what it means to be a united states senator taking them all around the world so many times younger senators people who have known him for a long time and he got that that drive to do that because he was himself was a liaison when he was still in the in the navy to the united states senate he was an attache and worked to help arrange these trips for members of the armed services committee when he got back uh and got released from uh from the vietnam prisoner prison camp from the hanoi hilton so there's so many life experiences that he's had and there there are certainly experiences that he has said that he regrets and things that were stains on his on his uh on his record the

[01:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3720s)

on his on his uh on his record the keating five which we'll get into uh but also he he never got over the fact that when he was in the hanoi hilton they broke him because they beat him so so aggressively in that prison that he signed a false confession and to the day he died i am sure he never got over that even though every other human who unders who even begins to understand what someone like that went through would not fault him for it at all and haven't i mean he is such a huge a man of humility because he has talked about making mistakes in life and doing his best but not always doing what is right um i i think it's so interesting because of how he carried himself you would never have known about all the awards and honors he racked up in his time in the military i was i was looking at my notes here and it's amazing to know that he has been awarded the silver star the bronze star the legion of merit a purple heart and the distinguished flying cross that speaks volumes about this man dana bash stand by with me as we listen to senator mccain's own words because last september he sat down with cnn's jake tapper and jake asked him how he wanted to be remembered so let's listen how's your family taking it cindy and jack and jimmy and bridget and megan well you know it's tough and we've tried to include them and when we have conference calls with the doctors and by the way mayo clinic and they're paying me nothing for this is is excellent nih has been really good and uh so i'm getting the best treatment that anybody could get and i'm very happy i'm very happy with my life i'm very happy with what i've been able to do and there's two ways of looking at these things and one of them is to celebrate

[01:04:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3840s)

things and one of them is to celebrate i am able to celebrate a wonderful life and i will be grateful for additional time that i have um we were talking about old memories i covered the straight talk express your campaign in 2000. i have a very vivid memory one time we're flying on your airplane during that 2000 presidential race and you remember that plane was a bucket of bolts that was an awful plane it was on the cheap and uh we were going through turbulence it was bad turbulence people on the plane were scared i was scared you were standing in the aisle holding a glass of vodka i think uh and you were saying they can't kill me in a plane i can't be killed in a plane because obviously you'd survive a number of plane crashes as a navy pilot does this face off with mortality feel different than previous ones you have faced like the other ones i had much more control obviously i i was flying the airplane you know although the melanoma was similar to this but um it's it's it's similar in that the challenges are very significant obviously but everything so far has gone very very well and i'm very grateful and then i've had no side effects no nothing except and frankly an increased level of energy and i want to thank the doctors and the nurses and the attendants and all of those have inflicted so much pain on me i didn't know i had any blood left but i'd like to thank them for their wonderful care they're wonderful people last question on health and then we'll move on to issues and that is you went through chemo and radiation to fight this cancer when do you find out if it worked uh on monday we will take a mri but so far all indications are are very good but again i'm not trying to paint this as a rosy picture this is a very virulent form of cancer it has to be fought against we have new technologies which i won't bother you with with the details of

[01:06:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3962s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=3962s)

bother you with with the details of that make chances much better but jake you know every life has to end one way or another i think it was a playwright i think i think i'll think of his name in a minute he said i always knew that no one could live forever but i thought there might be one exception that reminds me you've got to have joy joy listen those joyful memories of the of the campaign in 2000 are some of the most enjoyable times of my life we were the underdogs we were fighting our way up we went to sedona remember i mean everything was so magic about that campaign and i'm very grateful for having the opportunity remember i'm the guy that stood fifth from the bottom of his class at the naval academy his smile gotta love that megan mccain tweeted about her father tonight she too talks about his joy and what he brought to this world to her personally she writes i love you forever my beloved father senator john mccain and then you see her statement below the longer statement she says my father united states senator john mccain iii departed this life today i was with my father at his end as he was with me at my beginning in the 33 years we shared together he raised me taught me corrected me comforted me encouraged me and supported me in all things he loved me and i loved him presidents also tweeting out their responses president donald trump tweeting this earlier this evening my deepest sympathies and respect go out to the family of senator john mccain our hearts and prayers are with you i also want to go to stephanie elam who's on the ground now in arizona where word of mccain's death obviously has has now trickled out into the community there stephanie what's the reaction

[01:08:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4083s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4083s)

well we've had a few people stop by one man just stopped by in a pickup truck to ask what was the status of senator mccain and when i told him he took a moment kind of curls his lips in and digested that news i i don't think you can understate anna just how much senator mccain is loved in the state of arizona and you don't really have to look further than the fact that he was elected six times to the u.s senate to represent the state but all day long people have been stopping dropping off flowers checking in seeing if we know anything before they do about the status cell receptionist spotty in this area so not everyone's be able to get that information on their phone as quickly as perhaps you would in the city and we've seen people stopping by dropping off flowers and they've been very receptive i have to say the security that's been here all day it's beefed up a little bit now since we've seen uh since we got official word that the senator has passed away that there are more vehicles out here now there seems like there's almost like three levels of checkpoints now it was just one before so uh just just the idea just the idea that um people are being disrespectful out here in sedona where obviously was loved in this very beautiful part of the united states and just to give you an idea that earlier this morning there was a gentleman who came by with a truck a small truck with two very huge flags one of them was a trump banner that he was flying off the back of his truck and i think that's noteworthy in the sense that you know how much senator mclean mccain and president trump have clashed we know how much uh to the point that we hear that president trump is not invited to his funeral proceedings but that man came here today and he hoisted up that sign here that says senator mccain thank you for your service um it just says a lot about how much senator mccain is respected and loved here in the state

[01:10:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4200s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4200s)

here in the state and here in sedona which is a beautiful part of the country and today the weather and all that we've seen of the sky changing here today um it's it's been moody uh for lack of a better word it's been moody here it's cool now it's drizzling a little bit here today and in many ways it definitely feels uh the appropriate scot of response from the heavens above as we've gotten word now that senator mccain has passed on all right stephanie elam stand by thank you and joining us now on the phone is ohio governor john kasich governor kasich thank you for being with us i know it's an emotional night for so many people in this country yourself included you and john mccain and our friends and obviously colleagues as republican leaders in this country what are your thoughts tonight well i mean i'm kind of listening to the broadcast and as i listen it's um he was just really incredible mccain was just an amazing guy i first met him uh we went into congress together and we weren't there a couple days before we all just knew that john was going to be the president of our class he would be the leader of our class and um you know i've had so many uh so much time with him and just most recently i remember he took a very hard position on the health care law and

didn't feel as though it was going to be fair to people or help people and and i called him and i said john um you know you've always been a hero to me and you've just underlined it so many times because of the way in which you care so much about the people he's just an independent guy he loved this country more than anything else and i i just cannot tell you all the listeners what an

[01:12:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4322s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4322s)

tell you all the listeners what an incredible guy he was i mean he really did march to his own drummer when he had to take a position that was a you know sort of against the grain he he didn't revel in it he he just felt there was a deep conscience about john combined with a backbone that allowed him to just feel so good about what he did and he inspired all of us and i mean just you're not going to replace this guy she just can't there's only been one john mccain and you're it's just there's not going to be another one like him and for those that knew him and i have a number of friends that were really extremely close to him it's such a sad day but at the same time i'd have to say they were so proud to be with him too because you know john not was not only felt strongly about public policy and all that he had an incredible sense of humor he just loved the laugh i was with him not long ago in munich with and i saw some pictures just briefly and his buddy joe lieberman i mean these guys were as they were like so close right now smiling and laughing i'm sure that joe is so sad tonight i mean john just loved joe and joe just so much love john and that was a deep deep friendship you know in politics a lot of time it's they say if you if you want to have a friend you get a dog in most cases that's true but when i think about joe lieberman and i think about john mccain that was a deep deep friendship and all i can say is i'm i'm so glad that i knew him i'm so glad that we were friends i'm so glad that he had an opportunity to inspire our country so you can be a lot said about him in the next few days but i just have to tell

[01:14:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4440s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4440s)

next few days but i just have to tell the folks that are watching at a time when we really want leaders no one like him he was the real mccoys when was the last time you spoke well i spoke to him um oh i guess i guess it was about a month ago and i said to him how we doing with the lord how are we doing with the big guy and he said johnny and he's the one of the few people my my wife my mother and john mccain all all three of them just call me johnny and he said johnny you don't have to worry about that i'm i'm squared away but you know as time went on it was harder and harder to talk to john because it was difficult for him um he just you know he was losing a lot of energy and and we knew that that this moment was just around the corner as my friends in fact i was just with one of his dear friends a man who traveled with him um on his campaign and he said john john's not going to be around much longer and one of my friends john weaver who works with me um you know this is going to be a devastating day people that were around him they just they just loved them they loved them what kinds of lessons do you think he he was able to impart before he left well for those that listened and today i think many of us wonder do people listen but for those that listened it was america's always number one political parties or vehicles for which we do things but that's not who we saluted and um and we got to just stand tall that's what john did i mean he he just stood tall he he just said i don't care all the pressure that they can place on me see i don't think john when you think about what he went through um when he was at the hanoi hilton i mean what kind of pressure could you put

[01:16:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4561s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4561s)

mean what kind of pressure could you put on john and you know he just was not somebody that ever bent or folded but he was polite about it and kind about it and he had that that sort of that impish laugh about him that chuckle that he had um so i think what everybody should take from him is think about what we're saying about him now wouldn't we all want somebody to say the things about us the way that we are saying things about john mccain he's a he's a great example for the way we need to conduct ourselves you both have expressed concern especially in the last year or a year plus or so about where the republican party is right now i mean now with his passing do you feel more conviction that you have to really sort of pick up the mantle and fight that much harder for the soul of your party well i think you know i was with the last time i

was with john traveling was in munich where he expressed the deep concerns about america about the peace of you know since world war ii about the strength of the alliance about our friends um this is not a night to be thinking about party or any of that other stuff it's it's really a night to just think about the contributions that he made and how dedicated he was to really piece through strength he was a peace true strength guy um but you know he trap you here you're going to hear so much from all the traveling that he did and he just took so many people around the world and gave them exposure and tried to teach them that we are we are the best in america when we stand together with those that share our values such a great note to leave that thank you governor john kasich for joining us for sharing your thoughts your memories about senator john mccain a man who has

[01:18:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4680s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4680s)

about senator john mccain a man who has made such a deep a deep mark on this world joining us now to continue the conversation is another man who knew mccain well who served alongside him in the state of the of arizona former senator john kyle another republican senator from arizona i know you were in the senate with him for more than 15 years sir what's on your mind right now well i'm very sad i mean it's been 18 years i spent with john in the senate and then six years since i left the senate um you know we knew the time was would come but still when it comes it's it's a very sad occasion i was listening a little bit to your last interview and and the fact is that i think when all is said and written about john mccain one of the things that will be most important is his contribution to the country on national security and international relations he uh led many many many congressional delegation trips abroad and these were not to the hot in the nice spots these were the places like yemen and afghanistan and iraq and so on and he knew more world leaders he knew more countries and what they were all about and i believe having served with him right alongside him for 18 years he had the best instincts on national security matters of anybody in washington and you can throw the secretaries of state in there i think john was one of our best representatives our meeting of the united states of america abroad and i think he will be missed abroad as well as he is here in the united states what was he like in casual settings when he wasn't you know the senator john mccain that we saw on camera doing his service for the country when you guys were just hanging out behind the scenes when the cameras weren't on him what was he like well one of my best memories is of several different congressional

[01:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4800s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4800s)

of several different congressional delegation trips but john lindsey graham and others uh just sitting on the airplane for hours upon hours upon hours and uh the conversations that we had john is a very funny guy he was very well read he he saw a lot of movies and so on and the interplay between john and lindsay was like uh you know two great comedians like uh you know lewis and martin and lewis they were they played off of each other so a lot of my memories are fun memories of those trips when and they're both very quick to the quip and john had such a great range of information knowledge about uh you know writings i mean he read a lot uh he was a prolific reader and he'd seen a lot of movies and he just he knew a lot of the pop culture he knew a lot of the sports culture as well as the important things that we were dealing with in senate so it was always fun to be with him on these trips and that's one of the things i'll certainly remember what do you think he was most proud of of the the things you accomplished with him in the senate i i'm not sure uh i know that he was proud of his achievements with respect to campaign finance reform and that sort of thing but um and he was he was proud of some of the things he achieved here in the state of arizona for native americans in our environment here and so on but i hope he was proud of what i think is his most important legacy which is his contribution to american national security and national relations what do you see as his contribution there well as i said before i don't know of another american leader who knew more about the issues and had better instincts as to what we should be doing about them internationally as it relates to national security than john mccain over a period of 30 years or

[01:22:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4920s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=4920s)

john mccain over a period of 30 years or so he traveled everywhere he knew the foreign leaders he knew the issues and he influenced a lot of policy through the young people he would take on these trips the young senators and representatives and the information he would bring back to us all and how he would inform the debate on these issues it was just extraordinarily important you know our secretaries of state do a lot of traveling and they meet a lot of people and they represent the u.s but i'm telling you that john mccain did as much as any of them how does somebody these days serve as long as senator john mccain six terms first elected in the mid-80s i mean he had such a career and it's not easy being a politician right it's not easy to serve your country and you know political winds shift and change and certainly the environment today is a whole lot different than it was when john was first elected but i'll tell you how he was first elected he jumped into a primary late when he moved to arizona there were there were three very prominent candidates running for the house seat that was vacant from john rhodes retirement and john just outworked him he and cindy and his team of young folks walked door to door and they simply outworked the more establishment candidates and he won the primary and then of course he won the election and the rest is history senator let me just interrupt for one moment i want to let our viewers know we're looking at live pictures right now this is a procession happening in sedona arizona near the home of john mccain where he was spent spending his his last days so that's what we're looking at but please continue well i i was saying john had a lot of energy i mean he got up early in the morning he worked very hard all day long he had more energy and ability to keep at the at the campaign than a lot of people who were a lot older than he was and that accounts for part of it part of

[01:24:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5041s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5041s)

and that accounts for part of it part of it also was the fact that he just enjoyed the fight he enjoyed being in the fight and in the campaign and in the effort and that's what what drove him by the way i want to do make one comment he fortunately had the advantage uh in the last year or so of his life to be able to spend it in a place he just dearly loved which is what you were looking at there it's called hidden valley and it's the place that he and his family have it's a beautiful little spot on oak creek in arizona he was very proud of it he was very happy there it's a it's a beautiful little piece of our environment he enjoyed it immensely and of course that's where his family joined him and i'm just glad that he had that last year with his family in the place that he loved so much no doubt former senator of arizona john kyle thank you very much for sharing your memories and your knowledge of senator mccain with all of us we continue to learn more about this man the gifts that he he leaves behind in this world his legacy is something that is quite enormous we continue to look at these live pictures of uh the procession that's happening in honor and memory of john mccain and you do see a hearse right there we know that his family was with him in his final days and hours and are crying and hurting tonight obviously but also thinking of him with great joy and i want to get back to to dana bash i know you're still with me what are your thoughts as you watch this dana it's it's hard for him to watch him leave this place that he loved as senator kyle knows knows really well uh and and stated so eloquently this place uh hidden valley uh is the place somebody who is as itinerant as he was as the son of an admiral traveled all around barely stayed in the same school more than a year this was the place he

[01:26:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5162s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5162s)

more than a year this was the place he finally put down roots and adored and and loved spending time with his family i was lucky enough as part of the traveling press corps in his 2008 presidential campaign to to spend a little time there and witness his love of just cooking ribs on the grill and talking about all of the different plants that are growing and trees that are going growing there and hawks that are flying and and it is just so peaceful and it's a little bit ironic for somebody who you would never use or think of the word peaceful when you think of john mccain he he shuddered at at peace he he was in constant motion which is one of the many reasons why he was you know so prolific and politics and every and everything else but this was a place that he could find peace and to see that uh that procession to see the the hearse carrying uh carrying john mccain away it's pretty tough it is dana stay with me we're hearing now from three former presidents former president bill clinton and his wife hillary clinton saying senator john mccain believe that every citizen has a responsibility to make something of the freedoms given by our constitution and from his heroic service

in the navy to his 35 years in congress he lived by his creed every day he was a skilled tough politician as well as a trusted colleague alongside whom hillary uh was honored to serve in the senate he frequently put partisanship aside to do what he thought was best for the country and was never afraid to break the mold if it was the right thing to do i will always be especially grateful for his leadership in our successful efforts to normalize relations with vietnam our thoughts and prayers are with his wife cindy his mother roberta his children and his entire family and he mentions normalizing relations with

[01:28:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5280s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5280s)

he mentions normalizing relations with vietnam and that was in the 90s as part of the senate select committee on pow mia affairs mccain he worked with democrats on normalizing relations and increasing trade with vietnam so one of his many many marks and that he leaves behind in history as as we were just speaking with former senator kyle about how he he really made a mark when it came to foreign relations and national security that's where his passion was that's where he really was courageous in making things happen let me read you what former president george w bush bush is saying also sharing his condolences saying some lives are so vivid it is difficult to imagine them ended some voices are so vibrant it is hard to think of them stilled john mccain was a man of deep conviction and a patriot of the highest order he was a public servant in the finest traditions of our country and to me he was a friend whom i will deeply miss laura and i send our heartfelt sympathies to cindy and the entire mccain family and our thanks to god for the life of john mccain and former president jimmy carter also saying this john mccain was a man of honor a true patriot in the best sense of the world of the word americans will be forever grateful for his heroic military service and for his steadfast integrity as a member of the united states senate rosalind and i extend our sincere condolences to senator mccain's family and to the people of arizona whom he represented so forthrightly for so many years and here you see the sun setting over sedona arizona i want to go back to dana bash john mccain he never won the presidency dana but he also never gave up his fight for this country and he earned the respect of all of these presidents who call him his friend that's right i i'm just

[01:30:03 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5403s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5403s)

his friend that's right i i'm just mesmerized by what we're seeing on the screen anna i'm sure you are too i mean that's almost it's it's otherworldly what we're looking at with that sunset and his beloved place it's hard to to really find words to describe it and to describe the man as you said he he didn't uh make it to the highest office in the land he didn't make it to the white house but the fact that we are hearing from two men who kept him from the presidency george w bush in the primaries the republican primaries back in 2000 and of course president barack obama who beat him in the general election in 2008 which with such long and heartfelt statements tells you so much about this man because they were his competitors but they were not his adversaries and they were certainly not his enemies and i can just tell you that i was at john mccain's concession speech there in arizona and in phoenix not far away where he talked about the fact that the country needed to unite behind barack obama and i've heard since that people when john mccain would visit them around the world they would quote that speech back to him anna because it meant so much about the nature of our democracy and that is what john mccain always stroked for his mantra was striving for a cause greater than one's own self and he lived that and he spoke that and he acted that way until this day when he passed as we continue to look at these pictures i just want to read you a couple of quotes john mccain's own words when he was talking about his diagnosis and his interview with jake tapper he said i'm very happy with my life i'm very happy with what i have been able to do and there's two ways of looking at things and one of them is to celebrate i'm able

[01:32:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5520s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7TzG4FVR3Y&t=5520s)

and one of them is to celebrate i'm able to celebrate a wonderful life and i will be grateful for additional time that i have and that was last september he went on to live another year even though his prognosis was not good he knew it but he lived his life fully to the very last days we look at the white house there flag tonight at half staff he talked about how he wanted to be remembered and this is what he said quote he served his

country and not always right made a lot of mistakes made a lot of errors but served his country and i hope we could add honorably i don't think there's anybody who could say john mccain did not serve honorably he was an honorable man dana judy honor country that was john mccain and i would just say that megan mccain's full statement will take your breath away for anybody who everybody should read it and i'll just read you part as we're looking at this fiery fiery sky megan mccain wrote in part he was a great fire who burned bright and we lived in his light and warmth for so very long we know that his flame lives on in each of us and you can almost see that in the sky there in arizona anna all right dana bash thank you just to recap our breaking news senator john mccain an american hero dead at age 81 surrounded by his family and his loved ones at his ranch in sedona arizona cnn takes a look back at his incredible life of service and sacrifice now in this dana bash documentary john mccain moments that made the man

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